

## **Governor O'Malley Appoints Leading Educator, Solar Innovator to Board of Maryland Clean Energy Center**

Annapolis, MD, Dec. 6 – Gov. Martin O'Malley has appointed a prominent academic researcher and a solar industry finance expert to fill two vacancies on the Board of Directors of the Maryland Clean Energy Center.

Eric Wachsman, Ph.D, Director of the University of Maryland's Energy Research Center, will serve through June 2015. George Ashton, co-Founder and Chief Financial Officer of Sol Systems, Inc. a national leader in aggregating solar renewable energy credits, is fulfilling a term that runs through September 2012.

Wachsman and Ashton join existing members of the Center's Board of Directors who oversee its mission of helping consumers, supporting businesses and advising lawmakers in Maryland as the state scales up its clean energy industries and energy efficiency initiatives. Other Board members include Jeremy Butz, Carol Collins, Ken Connolly, Jeff Eckel – who serves as the current Board Chairman – and Malcolm Woolf, Director of the Maryland Energy Administration.

"I am so proud to announce the appointment of two very talented individuals to the Board of the Maryland Clean Energy Center," said Governor O'Malley. "As Maryland continues to emerge as a national leader in clean energy, their leadership will help us move toward a better and more sustainable future for our children. I'd like to thank them for their willingness to step up and serve the people of our State as we work to find innovative ways to reach our clean energy goals in the toughest of times."

"We are privileged to have two such high-caliber and forceful clean energy advocates join us as we move into our second year of operation," said I. Katherine Magruder, Executive Director of the [Maryland Clean Energy Center](#). "They will help facilitate the adoption and generation of clean energy along with the new jobs, consumer savings and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions that come with it."

In addition to his leadership of [UM Energy Research Center](#), Wachsman holds the William L. Creutz Centennial Chair in Energy Research at the University of Maryland, College Park. Previously, Wachsman was Director of the Florida Institute for Sustainable Energy and a professor of materials science and engineer at the University of Florida in Gainesville. He has authored dozens of research papers since beginning his career as an engineer for chip-maker Intel. He earned his Ph.D and Masters of Science from Stanford University. Wachsman is filling out the remainder of the Board term served by Dan Goodman.

Ashton has been instrumental in growing [Sol Systems](#) into one of the country's leading aggregators of solar renewable energy credits, or SRECs. Solar system owners earn 1 SREC for every 1,000 kilowatt hours of electricity their systems generate each year. Before Sol Systems, Ashton was a Senior Account Executive at Fannie Mae, a government-sponsored enterprise chartered by Congress chartered to provide liquidity and stability to the U.S. housing and mortgage markets. Ashton earned his MBA from the Robert H. Smith School of Business at the University Maryland in College Park.

*More information is available at [www.MDCleanEnergy.org](http://www.MDCleanEnergy.org)*

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